# SHORT AND PLAIN DIRECTIONS FOR THE RIGHT PERFORMING OF THE DUTY OF PRAYER, WITH FORMS OF PRAYER FOR THE USE OF FAMILIES.

6 X 12.

BIBLIOTECA BODLEIANA

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*There was a certain man in Cesarea called Cornelius—a devout man with all his house—and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming into him, and saying unto him, Cornelius—thy prayers are come up for a memorial before God. Acts* x. 1, &c.

"*Prayer* of all the means of religion hath most of the end. It exercises our dependance upon God, our adoration and praise of him, and our charity to men. That part which consists of praise and thanksgiving, will be our great work to all eternity."

Dr. *Birch*'s Life of Archbishop *Tillotson*.

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MDCCLXXXIV.

"The very learned and pious Biſhop *Pearſon* took "occaſion very often and publickly to bleſs God, that he "was born and bred in a family in which God was worſhip- "ed daily; and certainly it is a duty which entails very "many bleſſings on poſterity; for which reaſon, a *Paſtor* "ſhould labour with all his might to introduce it into every "family under his charge; at leaſt, he ſhould give neither "himſelf, nor his people any reſt, till he has done all that "lies in his power to effect ſo good a work; *which if he* "*does dot do, this very intimation will one day riſe up in judg-* "*ment againſt him.*"

Biſhop *Wilſon*'s Works, vol. I. p. 411. 4to.

TO THE

# PEOLE of my CURE.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

WHAT *is the Almighty that we ſhould ſerve him, and what profit ſhould we have if we pray unto him,* was the language of the prophane in the days of *Job* (xxi. 15.); that it is characteriſtick of our own times is too notorious to require any proof----yet I am willing to hope better things of ſome of you my brethren; and that amidſt this general wreck of corruption, there are a happy few, I know there is, who will *not caſt off fear, nor reſtrain prayer before God.* *Job* xv. 4.

That you may be the better able to diſcharge ſo important a part of your duty with propriety and ſucceſs; the following plain directions, are ſubmitted to your moſt ſerious conſideration,

By your faithful Friend,

and humble Servant,

JOHN WEDDRED.

# SHORT AND PLAIN
# DIRECTIONS
## FOR THE
## RIGHT PERFORMING
## OF THE
## DUTY OF PRAYER, &c.

FOR the ſake of order and clearneſs, I ſhall,

Firſt, give you a ſhort and plain account of the nature of prayer in general, to the end and intent that you may have a right notion and conception of it.

Secondly, I ſhall ſhew you thoſe particular requiſites or qualifications neceſſary to recommend our prayers, and give them ſucceſs.

Now prayer is that act, by which we manifeſt and expreſs our deſire of ſomething which we want; and is a plain argument of our being dependent and indigent

indigent creatures. For by the very act of prayer we confeſs the ſuperiority of that being to whom our prayers is directed; and that he is more powerful than ourſelves. We own ourſelves unable to procure that for which we intreat the aſſiſtance of another. And our prayers are moſt fitly addreſſed to God, becauſe there is no being ſo high and powerful as he. *For he is the bleſſed and only potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,* 1 *Tim.* vi. 15*.

If we reflect upon our obligations or our wants, upon our ſins, or the miſeries to which we lay open and expoſed, we ſhall find that prayer is a principal part of our ſervice to God: that it is a tribute which we are all of us bound in gratitude to pay; an acknowledgement that he is the fountain of all good, and that all bleſſings, whether ſpiritual or temporal, whether they relate to the body or the ſoul, to this life which is ſhort and momentary, or to that which is future, and

* "Fervent devotion from a pure heart is undoubtedly the moſt pleaſing of all employments; for it is the exerciſe of the ſweeteſt affections, hope and love, on the worthieſt of objects; a being infinitely able, and equally attentive, to reward our attachments to him, to defend us from every real evil, to beſtow on us every real good, and in due time the full enjoyment of the ſupreme good, *himſelf.*"

Archbiſhop *Secker's* Serm. vol. III. p. 62.

of eternal duration; I ſay that all theſe bleſſings are to be conſidered as ſo many ſmall ſtreams which flow from this immenſe ocean of bounty.

Indeed every moment of our lives, every part of the viſible creation, every act of divine providence affords a freſh proof of the goodneſs of God. And if gratitude did not open our lips to celebrate his praiſes, we ſhould be unfit to pray, and unſuitable objects of the divine bounty *.

I ſhall now *ſecondly* point out to you thoſe particular requiſites or qualifications which are neceſſary to recommend your prayers and give them ſucceſs.

And *firſt*, you ſhould take care to diſcharge this part of your duty with a ſuitable frame and temper of mind: And accordingly you ſhould offer them up with *ſincerity*; for *God requireth truth in the inward parts*, *Pſ.* li. 6. His language is, *my Son give me thine heart*, *Prov.* xxiii. 26. And therefore they ſhould not be offered up out of cuſtom, or faſhion, or

* "One of the great inſtruments of religion is *prayer*: We are commanded to *aſk* in order to *receive*; and he muſt have little ſenſe of thoſe good things which God daily beſtows on him, who refuſes to give the tribute of a thankful heart: he muſt have but ſlight notions of his own weakneſs and impotency, who does not ſeek help from above."

*Nelſon's* Practice of true Devotion. Chap. 14.

fear

fear of being ſingular*, or doing an injury to our character, on the one hand; or out of oſtentation or vain-glory on the other, in order to catch the favour and applauſe of men. *And when thou prayeſt, thou ſhalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray ſtanding in the ſynagogues and in the corners of the ſtreets, that they may be ſeen of men. Verily I ſay unto you, they have their reward. But thou when thou prayeſt, enter into thy cloſet, and when thou haſt ſhut thy door, pray to thy Father which ſeeth in ſecret; and thy Father which ſeeth in ſecret ſhall reward the openly.* Matt. vi. 5. 6.

You muſt likewiſe avoid ſuperſtition in your prayers, a fault which our Saviour

* "Fear of *ſingularity* hath a moſt powerful influence upon mankind: and in matters nearly indifferent, it is very uſeful that it ſhou'd. But in points of importance, our concern is to act as we ought ourſelves, let thoſe around us act as they will.—In religion, both reaſon and ſcripture dictate this behaviour—and yet many, who can even affect to be ſingular in trifles and follies, have ſuch a cowardly fear of being thought ſo in the caſe of ſeriouſly profeſſing religion, where it would be truly honourable—that to avoid this imagined evil, they will incur the moſt real ones, a guilty conſcience in this world, and the wrath of their Maker in their next. If this be not contemptible weakneſs, what is? and if it be ſerving the Lord, let ever ſo few do it, is true wiſdom."

*Archbiſhop Secker*'s Serm. vol. II. p. 40.

"Between *duty* to *God*—and *reſpect* for *man*, it were *criminal* to *heſitate*."

Dr. *Horſley*'s letters in reply to Dr. *Prieſtly*. Letter XVII. p. 159.

repre-

reprehends in the heathens who imagined *they ſhould be heard for their much ſpeaking. Matt.* vi. 7. and accordingly drew out their prayers to an intolerable length. In ſhort, in praying as in all our actions of piety, we muſt have recourſe to thoſe rules which God has preſcribed and laid down for our conduct and direction. For reaſon even when it is free from paſſion, prejudice and opinion, is not, properly ſpeaking, a rule, but only ſerves to guide us by means of that rule, namely, the word of God, which is laid down and delivered to direct our reaſon.

When you pray your thoughts ſhou'd be wholly intent upon the buſineſs of devotion, and therefore not allowed to wander from their duty. For God requiring the ſacrifice of the whole heart, it is in vain to pray to him with your lips, whilſt your heart is eſtranged from him, and vainly perſuing ſome worldly objects of pleaſure, or buſineſs. " Can you ima-
" gine that pardon of ſin, and peace of
" conſcience; the fruits of the ſpirit, and
" ſupport againſt temptations; in a word,
" the bleſſings of this world and the next,
" with which God hath promiſed to reward
" your prayers, ſhould be purchaſed at
" the cheap expence of forms and ap-
" pearances? that thoſe devotions which

" affect not you firſt, ſhould affect God " afterwards? that he ſhou'd attend to, " or regard ſuch requeſts, as you neither " regard or attend to yourſelf *." For which reaſon it will be very proper to follow the advice of the wiſe man, whoſe direction is, *compoſe and ſettle thy mind before thou prayeſt, and be not as a man that tempteth God. Eccluſ.* xviii. 23.

Your prayers ought to be offered up with zeal and fervency, in order to ſhew the value and eſteem you place on thoſe things which you pray for †. For the apoſtle aſſures us, that *it is only the fervent prayer of a righteous man that availeth. Jam.* v. 16. *Ye ſhall call upon me, and ye ſhall pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. Ye ſhall ſeek me, and find me, when ye ſhall ſearch for me with all your heart. Jer.* xxix. 12. 13. With good *Jacob, you muſt wreſtle with God. Gen.* xxxii. 25. With holy *Jeremiah, plead with him. Jer.* xii. 1. And with fervent David, *pour out your ſoul before him. Pſ.* lxii. 8. If you will be heard, you muſt *come boldly* (importunately) *to the throne of grace. Heb.* iv. 16. and *offer up your prayers and ſup-*

* Biſhop *Atterbury*'s Serm. vol. IV. p. 204.

† " The *lukewarmneſs* of our prayers is the ſource of infidelity. If riches were to be had for aſking, how earneſt, how conſtant, ſhould we be at our prayers."

Biſhop *Wilſon*'s Works, vol. I. p. 359. 4to.

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*plications with ſtrong crying and tears unto him that is able to ſave. Heb.* v. 7. *Cry mightily unto God. Jon.* iii. 5. *ſeeking the Lord of hoſts. Zech.* viii. 21.

Likewiſe with the moſt profound ſubmiſſion to the will of God; let your heart be ever ſo ſtrongly fixt on ſuch things as you implore the divine goodneſs to grant you, yet ſhould you always aſk them with the deepeſt humility; reſigning up yourſelf, and every thing you enjoy, into the hands of that God, whoſe infinite wiſdom diſcerns what is beſt and moſt expedient for you; and whoſe infinite goodneſs will always diſpoſe him to liſten to the devout prayers of his humble ſupplicants. Therefore *put your truſt in the Lord. Pſ.* iv. 5. and *let him do to you, as ſeemeth good unto him.* 2 *Sam.* xv. 26.

It is further requiſite that you pray with *faith;* with full truſt and reliance on the promiſes of God. *For all things whatſoever ye ſhall aſk in prayer, believing ye ſhall receive. Matt.* xxi. 22. *Mark* ii. 24. *James* i. 5. 6.

You ſhould always remember to pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour *Jeſus Chriſt,* through whoſe prevailing merits and interceſſion you are admitted to approach in your prayers the throne of grace, to beg a ſupply of your wants, and

have an aſſurance of obtaining what you pray for, provided it be ſuitable and convenient for you. *For whatſoever you ſhall aſk the Father* (ſays our Saviour) *in my name, he will give it you. John* xvi. 23. xiv. 6. 13. xv. 16. *Eph.* v. 20. *Heb.* xiii. 15. 1 *Pet.* ii. 5.

In the laſt place, you ſhould come to the buſineſs of prayer with purity of heart and an unblemiſhed life. For 'tis in vain to approach a God of infinite purity and holineſs in your prayers, ſo long as you live in the practice of any known ſin. *If I regard iniquity in my heart* (ſays David) *the Lord will not hear me. Pſ.* lxvi. 18. *We know that God heareth not ſinners; but if any man be a worſhiper of God and doeth his will him he heareth. John* ix. 31. And indeed how can the pure and holy God, who ſees through every veil and diſguiſe, but abhor ſuch hypocritical offerings. Let it then be your daily care and conſtant endeavour to baniſh your vices, and purify your hearts and lives from all ſin and wickedneſs. Learn to know what and to whom you ſpeak, and God will be propitious to your prayers. He will be pleaſed graciouſly to look down upon you, and for the ſake of his Son's moſt prevailing merits and interceſſion, he will pour down his bleſſings upon you. He will vouch-

ſafe

ſafe to give you your daily bread in this life, and in the life which is to come ſupport and feed you with the bleſſed viſion of himſelf, and with thoſe pleaſures which flow at his right hand for evermore. *For the Lord is nigh unto them that call upon him: yea all ſuch as call upon him faithfully. He will fulfil the deſire of them that fear him; he alſo will hear their cry and will help them.* *Pſ.* cxlv. 18, 19.

And now, my dear friends, let me intreat you by all that is ſacred, by all that is dear to you! that you will not fail (at leaſt every Night and Morning) to call your families together*; *and lift up your ſouls unto the Lord.* *Pſ.* lxxxvi. 4. *To*

* "*Daily prayers* to God every *morning* and *evening* in our *families*; and reading ſome portion of the *holy Scriptures* at thoſe times, eſpecially out of the *Pſalms* of *David*, and the *new Teſtament*; is ſo neceſſary to keep alive and to maintain a ſenſe of God and religion in the minds of men, that where it is neglected I do not ſee how any family can in reaſon be eſteemed a *family* of *chriſtians*, or indeed to have any religion at all."

Archbiſhop *Tillotſon*'s Serm. vol. III. p. 596, fol. ed.

"We can call our *children*, *ſervants* and *dependants*, to family devotions, from the lamentable omiſſion of which duty, a very great part of our ſins and follies proceeds.—When poor, ignorant, thoughtleſs creatures come to live under our roof; is it *chriſtian*, is it *human*, to let them go on, juſt as they will, to their own deſtruction of body and ſoul? they contribute a great deal of our happineſs; why ſhou'd not we contribute, ſince we ſo eaſily may, in this important point to their's."

Archbiſhop *Secker*'s Serm. vol. II. p. 44.

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*lift up your eyes unto the hills from whence cometh your ſalvation. Pſ.* cxxi. 1. Even the throne of God the ſeat of his majeſty. But let the conſideration of this ſtately palace of the King of Kings fill your hearts with humility and devotion, and induce you to preſent your petitions at the throne of grace with all poſſible reverence and adoration. Is your Father in heaven cloathed with honour and majeſty? then does it behove you, who are but duſt and aſhes, vile earth, and miſerable ſinners, when you make your approaches to this great and dreadful God, carefully to avoid all rudeneſs and indecency in your carriage and demeanor; and all raſhneſs and inconſideration, both with reſpect to your thoughts and language. It becomes you to abſtain from the uſe of very long prayers, particularly ſuch as you do not underſtand, and all empty and lifeleſs repetitions. Before you preſume to addreſs almighty God in your prayers, in the firſt place, it is your duty to recollect your wandering thoughts, to tune your affections, and compoſe your mind into a heavenly frame and temper; to employ fit and proper words to expreſs the deſires of your ſouls; and thus with unaffected zeal, faith, humility, and integrity of heart, proceed to worſhip, fall down, and

and kneel before the Lord your Maker*; and preſent your requeſts at the throne of grace, for the pardon of your ſins, the ſupply of your wants, and relief from all the evils and miſeries you complain of; following however the advice of the royal preacher, who ſays, *be not raſh with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be haſty to utter any thing before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.* *Eccl.* v. 2.

* *Kneeling* is undoubtedly the moſt proper poſture in *prayer* and ſupplication. See *Pſ.* xxii. 30.—xcv. 6.—xcix. 5.—*Rom.* xiv. 11.—*Eph.* iii. 14.—*Phil.* ii. 10. Inſtances of the uſe of it therein. 1 *Kings* viii. 54.—2 *Chron.* vi. 13. —*Ezra* ix. 5.—*Dan.* vi. 10.—*Luke* xxii. 41.—*Acts* vii. 60. —ix. 40.—xx. 36.—xxi. 5. Indeed no poſture can poſſibly be too low, when we addreſs the great and incomprehenſible majeſty of God. If we humble ourſelves to the duſt, it is but from whence we are taken? *And he (Chriſt) fell on the ground, and prayed.* *Mark* xiv. 35.

" The firſt chriſtians (ſays the learned and pious Biſhop " *Atterbury*) contented not themſelves with the *ordinary* " poſtures of devotion, ſuch as bending the knee, the " bowing of the head or body, but did *(as one of the* " *ancients ſpeak)* proſtrate themſelves on the pavement, " cover it with their bodies, and waſh it with tears of " devout joy. God grant, that if theſe heights of devo- " tion be too exalted for an age ſo degenerate as this, in " which *iniquity abounds* and *the love of many is waxen cold*; " yet, at leaſt, that *ſo much* of the life and ſpirit of " *primitive* piety may be kept up among us, as may render " our *behaviour ſober and compoſed* in the uſe of holy things, " and take away from wicked men an occaſion to " blaſpheme."

Serm. vol. IV. p. 196.

PRAYERS

# PRAYERS for FAMILIES.

## MORNING.

BLESSED Lord God, who hath formed us for thyſelf, and to whom we owe our Being and all that we are and have: Thou haſt not only made us capable of worſhiping thee, but haſt every way obliged and encouraged us to it. Prepare our hearts, that we may worſhip thee in ſpirit and in truth; and mercifully forgive all our paſt neglect, and the ſin which cleaves to all our ſervices. Thy mercies are renewed to us every morning, and great is thy faithfulneſs and love. We deſire to adore and praiſe thee for all the perfections of thy nature, and for all thy goodneſs extended unto us. We wou'd give the unfeigned thanks for thy merciful preſervation of us through the dangers and darkneſs of the paſt night; for the refreſhing reſt which thou haſt given us; for our preſent health and ſafety; for the light of the returning day; for our food and raiment; and for all the many comforts of this life which thou beſtoweſt upon

upon us; confeſſing ourſelves leſs than the leaſt of all thy mercies: More eſpecially we deſire to praiſe thee with our whole hearts for that greateſt of all thy bleſſings, the redemption of the world by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and for thy word and goſpel which brings tidings of it to our ears. Let thy love conſtrain us to live no more to ourſelves but to him that died for us and roſe again. Give us that faith and love in our hearts whereby we may hate and depart from all iniquity; and let the grace of thy ſpirit be ever with us to enable us to ſtand againſt and overcome every temptation to evil, whether from the world, or Satan, or our own corrupt hearts. Keep us throughout the day in prayer and watchfulneſs; and be thou nigh to deliver us in every time of danger. May we ſpend this day as if it was our laſt; and may it be the daily concern of our lives, to be ready for death and judgment, whenever thou ſhall call upon us. Incline us to ſeek firſt the kingdom of God and his righteouſneſs, and in this way to truſt thee for all needful ſupplies for the body. Aſſiſt and proſper us in the work of our hands, and in all our neceſſary temporal affairs, that we may provide things honeſt in the ſight of all men. May we be not ſlothful in

buſineſs, and yet fervent in ſpirit ſerving the Lord. In our particular ſtations of life, may we be enabled to act according to thy word; and ſo to demean ourſelves towards one another and towards all, that in this, as well as in other reſpects, we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, and ſhew that we have not received the grace of God in vain.---Bleſs each of us, both in our bodies and in our ſouls, as is moſt ſuitable to our ſeveral ſtates and circumſtances; and enable us to truſt thee for all that we ſtand in need of, and to thank thee with unfeigned hearts for all that we receive. Make us ready for all that thou art purpoſing to do with us; that we may rejoice in thee, and be thankful, and reſign ourſelves to thy will, whether in ſickneſs or health, proſperity or adverſity. Make us followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promiſes; that when this ſhort life is ended, we may take up our everlaſting abode, not in the regions of darkneſs and woe, but in thoſe manſions of bliſs and glory which thou haſt provided for thoſe that follow CHRIST in the regeneration. All theſe bleſſings, with whatſoever is neceſſary for us and for all mankind, we aſk in the name and for the ſake of JESUS CHRIST our prevailing mediator: and

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in his words, we would further pray unto thee.

"Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen,*"

## EVENING.

O LORD and heavenly Father, we thy unworthy ſervants deſire thy fatherly goodneſs, mercifully to accept our ſacrifice of praiſe and thankſgiving for the mercies of the day paſt; as well as for all other thy unnumbered and unceaſing beneſits beſtowed upon us, ever ſince we were born. Thou art good, and doeſt good. The fruits of thy love and bounty, we have daily and hourly received. We are indebted to thee for our life, and for the preſervation of it; for our health and peace, our friends, our food and raiment, and for preſent comforts more than we can expreſs. O do thou give us ſuch a ſenſe of thy goodneſs upon our

minds, that we may acknowledge it, not only with our lips and upon our knees, but with real gratitude and love to thee in our hearts. And eſpecially, we beſeech thee ſo deeply to affect our minds with the conſideration and remembrance of thy redeeming love, and that rich proviſion which thou haſt made in JESUS CHRIST for our ſinful and guilty ſouls, and that door of mercy and acceptance which thou haſt opened for ſuch ſinners as we are, thro' his obedience unto death; that we may praiſe thee as thy children in this world, and hereafter unite in praiſing thee for ever, with the whole multitude of thy ſaints in glory. Let the thought of all thy goodneſs and long-ſuffering lead us to repentance; and let a view of the ſuffering love of JESUS break our hearts becauſe of our ſins which pierced and nailed him to the croſs.----We wou'd confeſs with ſhame and ſelf-abaſement, that by the daily and hourly rebellion of our lives, we have trangreſſed thy law, offended thy juſtice, abuſed thy patience and mercy, and crucified the Lord of glory. Let all our truſt and confidence be in the attonement of CHRIST for acceptance and favour with thee, living and dying; and thus may we find that relief and peace for our minds, and that ſtrength

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of ſalvation and comfort, which neither unbelief nor Satan can deprive us of. Lead us in the paths of univerſal godlineſs and righteouſneſs. Let us be not of the world as CHRIST was not of it, nor conformed to it in any of its evil ways, pleaſures or vanities. Save us from the corruptions and deceitfulneſs of our own evil hearts; and from all the devices of the devil, who goeth always about ſeeking whom he may devour. Direct us in all thy ways by thy word and ſpirit, and ſuffer us not to decline from thy paths. Engraft thy love in our hearts, that we may hate the thing which is evil, and always be ready to chooſe any ſuffering rather than ſin: And from an affecting view of the treachery of our hearts and of the many dangers we are expoſed to, may we rely only upon the grace of CHRIST which is ſufficient to keep us from falling. Thro' this grace may we go on from ſtrength to ſtrength, and daily proceed in all virtue and godlineſs of living; that whenever death ſhall overtake us, we may be found fit for heaven.---Forgive all that thy pure eye hath ſeen evil in us this day: Be not extreme to mark our tranſgreſſions: But grant us to lie down this night in peace with thee, and with an intereſt in the ſalvation and hope of the goſpel;

goſpel; that if death ſhould arreſt us before the morning light, we may not lift up our eyes in torments, but find ourſelves in thy embraces, as the monuments of thy rich grace and mercy in CHRIST for ever. —O Lord, in mercy hear theſe our requeſts: And likewiſe extend thy love to our fellow-mortals in general. Have mercy upon all men. Turn the unconverted from the error of their ways. Bleſs and defend all thy people, and rule and govern thy holy church univerſal in the right way. Comfort the afflicted with ſpiritual conſolations. Forgive our enemies, and incline us to forgive and love them. Bleſs all our friends, relations, acquaintance and neighbours: Protect them and us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Unite us together, in the enjoyment of all ſpiritual bleſſings, and beſtow on us whatever is needful for the body. All this we aſk in the name and for the ſake of JESUS CHRIST. Our Father, &c.

## *Another* MORNING PRAYER,

O LORD our God, we deſire, with all humility and reverence to adore thee, as a being who art infinite in all perfections and excellencies, and as the author

author and giver of all good to us thy unworthy creatures. We would reckon it our great privilege, as well as our duty, to draw nigh to the throne of thy grace by JESUS CHRIST. Grant that we may always account the worſhip of thee in our family the moſt needful part of our daily buſineſs, and our moſt pleaſant employ. Be thou the God of our family; and whatever others do, may we of this houſe always ſerve the Lord.---We thank thee for all the mercies of the night, and for the health and ſafety, and comforts more than we can expreſs, which are continued to us until this hour. Suffer not thy benefits to ſlip out of our minds. Give us grateful hearts; and diſpoſe us by thy grace to uſe all our temporal bleſſings according to thy will, and to thy glory.

We confeſs, O Lord, that we have ſinned and come ſhort of the glory of God: We are prone to depart and backſlide from thee. And our actual tranſgreſſions, in thought, word, and deed, are more in number than the hairs upon our heads; and upon a view of our exceeding ſinfulneſs and guilt, our hearts may juſtly fail us. We can have no hope from ourſelves, or from any thing we have done. We have no righteouſneſs of

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our own to truſt in, or to plead before thee. But we deſire to bleſs thee for ever, that thou haſt opened a door of hope for us in JESUS CHRIST: That he hath ſuffered once for ſin, the juſt for the unjuſt, to bring guilty rebels back to God; and that he is become the end of the law for righteouſneſs to every one that believeth: We bleſs thee that on this account thou canſt pardon our ſins, to the glory of thy juſtice, truth, and holineſs, as well as of thy grace and mercy. Lord, grant that we may be found in CHRIST, not having our own righteouſneſs! Let it be the chief concern and care of each of us, that we may have redemption in his blood, even the forgiveneſs of our ſins, according to the riches of thy grace. Be merciful to our unrighteouſneſſes, and our ſins and our iniquities do thou remember no more. May we come to CHRIST, labouring and heavy-laden, to find reſt for our ſouls; and do thou diſpoſe us to take his yoke upon us, and to learn of him: Renew us after his image. and enable us to walk after his example. May we be dead and riſen with CHRIST, thro' faith of thy ſpirit's operation, and ſeek thoſe things that are above, ſetting our affections on things above, and not on things on the earth. Mortify all ſin in us;

and

and ſuffer us not to be tempted above that we are able to bear. Make us ſtrong in the grace of JESUS, that we may fight the good fight of faith againſt every ſpiritual enemy, and be ſtedfaſt, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; and do thou put thy fear in our hearts, that we may not depart from thee.--Help us to live this day with eternity in view, and to ſet thee always before us. Proſper us in all our lawful undertakings. Prepare us for every trial, and make it profitable to our ſouls. Watch over us for good, in our going out, and in our coming in. Give us the joy of thy ſalvation, and the comforts of thy ſpirit. Help us to pray without ceaſing, and in every thing to give thanks; and whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, to do it to thy glory. Give us grace to keep always a conſcience void of offence towards God and all men; and produce and increaſe that faith in us which works by love to God, and to all mankind, both friends and enemies.--- Bleſs and preſerve thy univerſal church.--- Let the kingdom of thy grace, and the ſaving knowledge of CHRIST, be extended throughout the world; and let it greatly increaſe in our place and nation. Awaken and convert careleſs and impenitent ſinners: Strengthen and encourage all ſuch

as ſeek thy face, that they may never turn back: And let all thy children be taught of thee, and grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, till they come to be with him where he is: And in this number may we all be found, for thy mercies ſake, thro' the ſame allſufficient and only redeemer. Our Father which art in heaven, &c.

## *Another* EVENING PRAYER.

O LORD God Almighty, who dwelleſt in the heavens, and yet beholdeſt all the inhabitants of the earth; in whom we live and move and have our being, and by whom we have been upholden ever ſince we were born: We lift up our ſouls unto thee, and preſent unto thee our evening ſacrifice of prayer and praiſe. How great and marvellous is thy condeſcenſion and goodneſs, in that thou wilt look upon ſuch ſinners as we are. Our ſins of omiſſion and commiſſion have been more than the ſands upon the ſea ſhore; and every one of them is deſerving of thy wrath to the uttermoſt, even of that eternal death which thou haſt declared to be the wages of ſin. What great reaſon have we then to acknowledge, that it is of thy mercies that we are not conſumed!

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How great is thy mercy toward us, in not having conſigned us before now to the loweſt hell! How wonderful is thy forbearance, in waiting till now to be gracious to us; and in ſtill permitting and inviting us to come unto thee by JESUS CHRIST. How unſpeakable is thy love, in having given thy dear ſon out of thy boſom, to be made in our nature, to fulfill all righteouſneſs for guilty men, and to become an atoning ſacrifice for ſins! Help us, O Lord, to draw nigh unto thee by that new and living way which he hath opened for ſinners through the vail of his ſuffering fleſh: Make all our ſins hateful and burdenſome to us; and grant us, by faith in the blood of JESUS, to obtain reconciliation with thee, and thy peace in our conſciences. Hide thy face from our ſins, and blot out all our iniquities. Lead us continually to the fountain opened in the blood of our ſaviour for ſin and uncleanneſs, that our guilty ſouls may be made whiter than ſnow. Mercifully forgive our ſins of this day. We confeſs that inſtead of having loved and ſerved thee as we ought to have done, throughout the day, we have been adding to the multitude of our former ſins. O give us daily repentance, and pardon for our daily ſins; and help us daily to fly

for refuge to CHRIST, and to find him precious and desirable above all things to our souls. By faith in him, may we not only obtain acceptance with thee, but likewise the powerful influences and constant supplies of that spirit, which he received without measure, to sanctify and renew our souls after thy image and likeness? Thro' the cross of CHRIST may we be crucified to the world, and the world to us. Thro' the spirit may we be enabled to mortify the deeds of the body, that we may live. Thro' the victory of our Saviour, may we get the victory over all the assaults and temptations of the devil. May we shew that we are in CHRIST and delivered from condemnation, by being new creatures, and by walking no longer after the flesh, but after the spirit. Convert us in our hearts from every idol, and from the love of every sin; and strengthen us by thy grace, that the whole tenor of our lives and conversations may be as becomes the gospel; that we may always exercise ourselves to have a conscience void of offence towards thee and all men.---Give the same blessings to all our friends and relations, that they also may be subjects together with us of thy kingdom of grace, and heirs of thy kingdom of glory.----Feed

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and govern thy whole church; and let all that love thee, of every denomination, be kept from the evil which is in the world, from the evil of their own hearts, and all the malice and devices of the devil: Let thy goſpel kingdom be enlarged and flouriſh, and overſpread the whole earth. Eſpecially do thou cauſe it to prevail more and more in theſe kingdoms. Make the life of goſpel-truth every where to ſhine forth, and make manifeſt the Saviour of the knowledge of CHRIST in every place, that this may indeed be a righteous nation and a chriſtian land.---Bleſs our rulers and governors: Rule their hearts in thy faith and fear, and enable them to act uprightly in their high ſtations, and to be a terror to evil-doers, and a praiſe to them that do well.----Accept our praiſes and thankſgivings for all the mercies of this day; and give us grace to uſe and improve all thy temporal benefits, according to thy will, and to thy glory.---Preſerve us and all belonging to us, during the dangers and darkneſs of the night: Give us quiet and refreſhing reſt, and let no plague come nigh our dwelling. Fit us for the ſleep of death, whenever it ſhall come upon us; and enable us to be daily waiting for and expecting it, in the faith of JESUS as the conqueror of death,

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and in continual watching and prayer.--- Grant that we may all belong to thy family and houſhold. Be nigh to us, and give thine angels charge over us to keep us; and whether we wake or ſleep, may we ſtill be with thee; and living, and dying, and for ever, may we be thine, thro' our Lord JESUS CHRIST. Our Father, &c.

## *For* SUNDAY MORNING.

MOST great, glorious, and eternal Lord God! We adore thee with all the powers and affections of our ſouls, as the almighty creator of the world, and as the merciful Saviour of ſinful and miſerable men; who didſt reſt the ſeventh day from the works which thou didſt make, and didſt alſo ſanctify the chriſtian ſabbath by the reſurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead. We thank thee, O Lord, for thy preſervation of us thro' the paſt night, and for the return of thy own day: And we eſteem it our privilege and happineſs to be employed in thy more immediate ſervice. We acknowledge that we have not improved thy ſabbaths and ordinances as we ought to have done: And we deſire to humble ourſelves before thee for having trifled with them in time paſt,

paſt, and abuſed them; and for all other our manifold provocations. Lord, lay not any of our iniquities to our charge; but cleanſe our ſouls from the guilt and pollution of them all, in the blood of the lamb, and make them to be as tho' they had never been: And let the remembrance of our paſt neglect and ingratitude, make us now the more in earneſt to uſe every means of grace for the profit of our ſouls, and for thy glory. Prepare us this day to worſhip thee in ſpirit and truth, both in public and private. Let the deſire of our ſouls be to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. Pour thy good ſpirit upon us, that in the uſe of thy bleſſed ordinances we may obtain and grow in the faith and knowledge of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the power of godlineſs. Deliver us from the coldneſs of our affections and from the wanderings and diſtractions of our thoughts. Let our hearts be fixed, and our deſires fervent; that we may join in the aſſemblies of thy people, with true devotion, in offering up our united prayers and praiſes; and may be able to ſay from happy experience, that it is good for us to draw near to thee, and that a day in thy courts is better than a thouſand others. May we love the habitation of thy houſe, and the place

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where thine honour dwelleth. Let thy ſabbath be our delight; holy and honourable in our eſteem. Suffer us not to be forgetful hearers, but receivers and doers of thy word. May we treaſure it up in an honeſt and good heart: Let not the cares of the world, the deceitfulneſs of riches, or the luſts of other things, choke the good ſeed, and render it unfruitful.--- Thanks be to thy name for that grace, mercy and peace, which is ſet before us in a dying JESUS: for the word of reconciliation that we are permitted to hear; and for thy peculiar kindneſs in viſiting our nation with the light of thy ſaving truth. O impreſs our hearts more deeply with a ſenſe of the worth of it, and of thy diſtinguiſhed goodneſs to our land: And let thy goſpel come to us, and to others all around us, and to our periſhing fellow-mortals every were, not in word only but in power, and in the holy ghoſt: And grant thy preſence with all worſhiping aſſemblies this day, and eſpecially with our's. Bleſs all thy miniſters, every where, and eſpecially him who is over us in the Lord: Make them diligent, and faithful, and holy, and exemplary: Teach them by thy ſpirit, that they may teach others aright: Enable them rightly to divide the word of truth, and to declare

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the whole counſel of God; and accompany thy word with the power of thy grace, that it may be attended with ſucceſs in the converſion of ſinners, the comfort and encouragement of thoſe that ſeek thy face, and the edification of thy faithful people. Make this, we beſeech thee, a bleſſed and glorious day, and a day much to be remembred, by the deſtruction of the kingdom of ſin and darkneſs, and by the increaſe and enlargement of thy own kingdom in the world. Wherever CHRIST is preached, let not thy word return unto thee void; but accompliſh what thou pleaſeſt, and proſper in the thing for which thou doſt ſend it.--- Help us, gracious Lord, to go to thy houſe truſting in the multitude of thy mercies, and with ſerious preparation of heart to wait upon and ſeek thee. Pour thy ſpirit upon miniſter and people; and give a bleſſing to us and to all that ſhall meet with us, ſuited to the caſe of each perſon. And grant that we may all ſo worſhip thee, and receive thy meſſage, and ſo ſpend this and every ſabbath, that we may have an earneſt and foretaſte of that everlaſting reſt which remaineth for all thy people. Hear us, O Lord, and do for us, and for thy whole church, greater and better things than we are able to aſk or think,

for the ſake of JESUS CHRIST our only Mediator and Saviour: Who haſt taught us to pray, ſaying, Our Father, &c.

## *For* SUNDAY EVENING.

O LORD, the holy God, who art moſt bleſſed for evermore, and high above all heavens: We thy unworthy and ſinful creatures again preſent ourſelves before the throne of thy Majeſty. Aſſiſt and teach us by thy ſpirit, that we may call upon thee in an acceptable manner, in the prevailing name of JESUS CHRIST, who ever liveth to make interceſſion. We muſt at all times addreſs ourſelves unto thee as guilty and miſerable ſinners, and with the publican's cry in our lips, "God be merciful unto us ſinners." Lord, help us to loath ourſelves in our own ſight for all our abominations, and to take refuge in thy mercy. For the ſake of that dear redeemer, who ſuffered once for ſin, paſs by all our tranſgreſſions, and lay them not to our charge. Pardon the iniquity of our holy things, and whatever in us has been diſpleaſing to thee this day: Impute not to us the vanity and diſtractions of our minds, our want of fervency and zeal in thy worſhip, or any of our omiſſions or neglect: But accept us in

CHRIST

CHRIST, the bleſſed ſurety of ſinners, and embrace us with the arms of thy mercy. We thank thee that there is forgiveneſs with thee, and for the invitations and encouragement thou doſt give us to return unto thee, and to hope in thee. For ever bleſſed be thy name for the grace and merit of JESUS CHRIST, and for the glad tidings of ſalvation thro' him, who is both able and willing to ſave to the uttermoſt, and whoſe errand into the world was to ſave ſinners, even the chief. Thanks be unto thee that we are allowed to hear of theſe things; that we have thy word daily in our hands, and ſounding in our ears from ſabbath to ſabbath. We bleſs thee particularly for the opportunities we have had this day, of aſſembling together, to join in thy worſhip and to hear thy goſpel meſſage. Forbid it, O Lord, that theſe mercies ſhould turn to our greater condemnation, by our abuſe and careleſs diſregard of them. O that all our waiting upon thee in thine houſe, may not be in vain! Engraft thy word inwardly in our hearts, and help us to mix faith with it and to yield obedience to it, that it may profit us. Fix it in our memories, and write it in our minds, that we may bring forth the fruits of it in our lives. May we receive with meekneſs every part

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thy word: May we take warning by thy threatnings, believe thy doctrines, embrace thy promiſes, accept thine offered ſalvation, and willingly obey thy commands. Grant that by the employments of this ſabbath, we may be fitted to walk with thee in faith and holineſs, throughout the week! And learn, while we are engaged in the buſineſs of our callings, to look not at the things which are ſeen and are temporal, but at the things which are not ſeen and are eternal.---Wherever the good ſeed of thy word has been ſown, water it with the dew of thy grace from above, that it may bring forth a plenteous increaſe. Lord, grant that good and laſting impreſſions may have been made upon the hearts of multitudes. Let thy goſpel be the Saviour of life unto life, and not of death unto death. Let all who are favored with the light of it, know in this their day the things that belong to their peace, and the time of their viſitation: And in thy mercy cauſe this ſaving light to ſhine among ſuch as remain in darkneſs and the ſhadow of death, that their feet may be guided into the way of peace. Make thy ways known upon earth, and thy ſaving health among all nations. May all the *Biſhops* and *Miniſters* of thy word, be taught of thee, and be zealous and diligent

gent to promote thy glory and the ſalvation of ſouls: May they preach not themſelves, but CHRIST JESUS the Lord; and be enſamples to thy flock, in faith and in all godlineſs.---Have mercy upon this ſinful land; and let not iniquity be our ruin. Reſtrain the overflowings of wickedneſs in rich and poor: Give repentance to thoſe of every rank! and by the influences of thy goſpel turn us, as a people to thyſelf; and make us ſenſible of the diſtinguiſhed privileges which we enjoy, both civil and religious; that we may lament our abuſe of them, and improve them henceforth to thy glory.---- Order and direct all our public affairs for thy glory and the good of thy church. Bleſs the King and all the Royal Family; and do thou rule their hearts in thy faith, fear and love.---Guide and govern all our Magiſtrates, Judges, Senators and Nobles, that they may act uprightly in their high ſtations; ſo that judgment may run down as water, and righteouſneſs as a mighty ſtream! and that under the protection of civil authority, we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godlineſs and honeſty.----Father of mercies, ſupply the wants of thoſe that are in neceſſity; ſupport and comfort all that are ſick and afflicted, or under any calamity: Sanctify

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their diſtreſſes for the profit of their ſouls, and be to them a preſent help in trouble. --Give us thankful hearts for all the mercies of this day; and watch over us amidſt the dangers of the night. Preſerve a ſenſe of thy love upon our minds, and give us to have ſweet and delightful fellowſhip with thee, when we lie down and when we riſe up, and continually to long and thirſt after thee, till we attain the full enjoyment of thee in a perpetual ſabbath: Hear and grant our requeſts, for the ſake of JESUS CHRIST. Our Father, &c.

FINIS.

*** The Reader will pleaſe to correct the following error of the preſs, in the third page.—*For* PEOLE *read* PEOPLE.